

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of conducting location based group sessions within a cell
2 based network, comprising:
3 defining a region of interest using a mobile terminal, the region of interest
4 being used as a group session area;
5 defining criteria using a mobile terminal, the criteria being used to
6 determine minimum capabilities required of group attendees;
7 identifying potential group attendees whose location is within the group
8 session area and whose capabilities meet the criteria; and
9 inviting the potential group attendees to join the location based group
10 session.

1 2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein defining the region of
2 interest comprises using a cell definition of the cell based network as the boundaries of the
3 group session area.

1 3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein defining the region of
2 interest comprises using a proximity connection to define the boundaries of the group
3 session area.

1 4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein defining the region of
2 interest comprises:
3 selecting a datum point from a display of surrounding area relative to the
4 mobile terminal; and
5 defining a circumference relative to the datum point to define the group
6 session area.

1 5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein defining the region of
2 interest comprises:
3 selecting a datum point associated with a landmark; and
4 defining a circumference relative to the landmark to define the group
5 session area.

1 6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein identifying potential
2 group attendees whose location is within the group session area comprises:
3 submitting the region of interest to a location server;
4 receiving location updates associated with the potential group attendees
5 from the location server; and
6 identifying the potential group attendees whose location lies within the
7 region of interest.

1 7. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising receiving
2 acceptance responses from ones of the potential group attendees to join the location based
3 group session.

1 8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the accepting ones of the
2 potential group attendees is attached to the location based group session.

1 9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein attaching to the location
2 based group session comprises:
3 sharing content between the mobile terminal and the accepting ones of the
4 potential group attendees; and
5 monitoring the location of the mobile terminal and the accepting ones of the
6 potential group attendees to insure continued conformance to the group session area.

1 10. A group hosting system, comprising:
2 an organization terminal wirelessly coupled to the group hosting system to
3 define group member criteria for a location based group session;
4 a plurality of mobile terminals wirelessly coupled to the group hosting
5 system; and
6 a group management server coupled to the group hosting system, the group
7 management server adapted to compare location information and capability information
8 associated with each of the plurality of mobile terminals to the group member criteria,
9 wherein one of the plurality of mobile terminals that comply with the group member
10 criteria are invited to join the location based group session.

1 11. The group hosting system according to Claim 10, further comprising
2 a location server adapted to maintain location information associated with the plurality of
3 mobile terminals and coupled to provide the location information to the group management
4 server.

1 12. The group hosting system according to Claim 11, further comprising
2 an application server coupled to receive the group member criteria and coupled to provide
3 the group member criteria to the location server and the group management server.

1 13. The group hosting system according to Claim 10, wherein the
2 application server is further coupled to receive content from the organization terminal and
3 is adapted to share the content with ones of the plurality of mobile terminals having
4 accepted the invitation to join the location based group session.

1 14. A mobile terminal wirelessly coupled to a network which includes a
2 group of mobile terminals wirelessly coupled to the network, the mobile terminal
3 comprising:

4 a memory capable of storing at least one of a group session creation module
5 and a group session management module;

6 a processor coupled to the memory and configured by the group session
7 creation module to enable a group criteria definition to be used in pre-qualifying ones of
8 the group of mobile terminals to participate in a group session; and

9 a transceiver configured to facilitate content exchange with participating
10 mobile terminals, the participating mobile terminals being selected from the pre-qualified
11 ones of the group of mobile terminals.

1 15. The mobile terminal according to Claim 14, wherein the transceiver
2 is further configured to exchange the group criteria definition with an application server.

1 16. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon
2 which are executable by a mobile terminal for organizing location based group sessions
3 with a group of mobile terminals in a network by performing steps comprising:

4 defining a session area where the location based group sessions are to be
5 offered;

6 defining criteria to establish minimum capabilities of the group of mobile
7 terminals; and

8 communicating the session area and the criteria to the network, wherein
9 participating terminals are selected from the group of mobile terminals that fall within the
10 session area and that meet the minimum capabilities.

1 17. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 16, further
2 comprising instructions to perform steps comprising exchanging data with the participating
3 terminals during a predefined time duration of location based group sessions.

1 18. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 16, further
2 comprising instructions to perform steps comprising receiving messages associated with
3 the location of the participating terminals.

1 19. An application server coupled to a network to facilitate a location
2 based group service, the application server comprising:
3 means for receiving group service definitions from an organizing terminal
4 wirelessly coupled to the application server;
5 means for communicating the group service definitions to network
6 components; and
7 means for inviting qualifying terminals to join the location based service,
8 the qualifying terminals having previously met the group service definitions as verified by
9 the network components.

1 20. The application server according to Claim 19, further comprising
2 means for exchanging content with the organizing terminal and ones of the qualifying
3 terminals having accepted the invitation to join the location based service.

1 21. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon
2 which are executable by an application server by performing steps comprising:
3 receiving group session criteria from a wirelessly coupled organizing
4 terminal;
5 exchanging the group session criteria with network components to ascertain
6 participating members of a group session; and
7 receiving content from the wirelessly coupled organizing terminal to share
8 with the participating members of the group session.

1 22. A method of conducting a location based group session within a
2 network, comprising:
3 defining a region of interest using a mobile terminal, the region of interest
4 being used as a group session area;
5 defining criteria using a mobile terminal, the criteria being used to
6 determine minimum capabilities required of group attendees;
7 identifying potential group attendees whose location is within the group
8 session area; and
9 providing the potential group attendees with an address of a server within
10 the network that is hosting the location based group session, the address being used by the
11 potential group attendees to access the server.

1 23. The method according to Claim 22, wherein defining the region of
2 interest comprises using a cell definition of the network as the boundaries of the group
3 session area.

1 24. The method according to Claim 22, wherein defining the region of
2 interest comprises using a proximity connection to define the boundaries of the group
3 session area.

1 25. The method according to Claim 22, wherein defining the region of
2 interest comprises:
3 selecting a datum point from a display of surrounding area relative to the
4 mobile terminal; and
5 defining a circumference relative to the datum point to define the group
6 session area.

1 26. The method according to Claim 22, wherein defining the region of
2 interest comprises:
3 selecting a datum point associated with a landmark; and
4 defining a circumference relative to the landmark to define the group
5 session area.

1 27. The method according to Claim 22, wherein identifying potential
2 group attendees whose location is within the group session area comprises:
3 submitting the region of interest to a location server;
4 receiving location updates associated with the potential group attendees
5 from the location server; and
6 identifying the potential group attendees whose location lies within the
7 region of interest.

1 28. The method according to Claim 22, wherein the server screens the
2 access requests from the potential group attendees to determine the ones of the potential
3 group attendees to be accepted into the location based group session.

1 29. The method according to Claim 28, wherein the accepted ones of the
2 potential group attendees is attached to the location based group session.

1 30. The method according to Claim 29, wherein attaching to the location
2 based group session comprises:
3 sharing content between the mobile terminal and the accepted ones of the
4 potential group attendees; and
5 monitoring the location of the mobile terminal and the accepted ones of the
6 potential group attendees to insure continued conformance to the group session area.